

The 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics

**1st International Workshop on Nakba Narratives as Language
Resources (Nakba-NLP 2025)**

Proceedings of the workshop

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Preface

Welcome to the 1st International Workshop on Nakba Narratives as Language Resources (Nakba-NLP 2025), co-located with the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025). Nakba-NLP 2025 was held virtually on January 20, 2025.

The narratives of the (ongoing) Palestinian Nakba hold immense historical, cultural, literary, and academic value. Preserving this content and empowering it with AI tools is vital to ensure its accessibility and usability for present and future generations. Nakba narratives and testimonies exist in diverse formats such as manuscripts, books, audio recordings, novels, and films, making their conversion into machine-understandable formats a significant challenge. Establishing accessible archives and well-annotated collections is crucial for researchers and historians to validate and share meaningful information.

This workshop aims to explore how artificial intelligence, natural language processing, and corpus linguistics can assist in understanding, disseminating, and preserving Nakba narratives and testimonies. The goal is to create accessible, comprehensive, and well-annotated collections that empower researchers and historians to validate and share critical insights derived from these data. The workshop targets datasets and narratives in Arabic, English, and other languages.

This year's workshop featured a total of 18 submissions, 14 submissions were accepted. The accepted papers are authored by 43 scholars representing diverse perspectives from 11 different countries, including the Egypt, France, Germany, Lebanon, Malta, Netherlands, Palestine, Spain, Turkey, USA, and UK. This highlights the international reach and collaborative spirit of the workshop. Each submission to the workshop was evaluated by at least two reviewers who were members of the Program Committee.

The Nakba-NLP 2025 workshop featured a keynote address and a panel discussion. Ilan Pappé, a renowned historian and political scientist from the University of Exeter, specializing in the Nakba, delivered the keynote address titled "*The Words Laundrette: Unmasking Bias and Propaganda in the Discourses on the Ongoing Nakba*". In his address, Pappé delved into how language is used, shaped, and contested within political and cultural narratives surrounding the Nakba—providing critical insights directly applicable to the role of NLP in analyzing such complex discourses.

The panel discussion, "*Digital Archives and Cultural Heritage in the LLM Era*," brought together leading experts, including Dawn Knight, Antonio Moreno Sandoval, Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, and Mustafa Jarrar. Their thought-provoking dialogue explored the rapidly evolving interplay between digital archives, cultural heritage, Large Language Models and Multimodal Large Models, highlighting the field's pressing challenges and transformative opportunities.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted a paper to the workshop and to all the members of the Program Committee.

Workshop organizers

Workshop Page: <https://sina.birzeit.edu/nakba-nlp>

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Workshop Program

20th January 2025

09:00 - 09:20 **Opening Session: Welcome by Workshop Chairs**

Chairs: Mustafa Jarrar and Camille Mansour

09:20 - 10:00 **Session 1: Propaganda Detection**

Chair: Nizar Habash

- **Integrating Argumentation Features for Enhanced Propaganda Detection in Arabic Narratives on the Israeli War on Gaza.** Sara Nabhani, Claudia Borg, Kurt Micallef, and Khalid Al-Khatib.
- **Multilingual Propaganda Detection: Exploring Transformer-Based Models mBERT, XLM-RoBERTa, and mT5.** Mohamed Ibrahim Ragab, Ensaf Hussein Mohamed and Walaa Medhat.

10:00 - 10:40 **Session 2: Bias Detection**

Chair: Mustafa Jarrar

- **The Missing Cause: An Analysis of Causal Attributions in Reporting on Palestine.** Paulina Garcia Corral, Hannah Bechara, Krishnamoorthy Manohara and Slava Jankin.
- **Deciphering Implicatures: On NLP and Oral Testimonies.** Zainab Sabra

10:40 - 11:15 **Break**

11:15 - 12:30 **Panel Discussion: Digital Archives and Cultural Heritage in the LLMs Era.**

Panel Chair: Mo El-Haj

Panelists:

Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, The University of British Columbia, Canada.

Antonio Moreno Sandoval, Autonomous University Madrid, Spain.

Dawn Knight, Cardiff University, UK.

Mustafa Jarrar, Birzeit University, Palestine

12:30 - 13:00 **Lunch Break**

- 13:00 - 13:45 **Session 3: Classification of Narratives**
Chair: Tymaa Hammouda
- **Sentiment Analysis of Nakba Oral Histories: A Critical Study of Large Language Models.** Huthaifa I. Ashqar.
 - **Arabic Topic Classification Corpus of the Nakba Short Stories.** Osama Hamed and Nadeem Zaidkilani.
 - **Exploring Author Style in Nakba Short Stories: A Comparative Study of Transformer-Based Models.** Osama Hamed and Nadeem Zaidkilani.
- 13:45 - 14:00 **Break**
- 14:00 - 15:00 **Session 4: Tagging of Nakba Narratives**
Chair: Ghadir Awad
- **NakbaTR: A Turkish NER Dataset for Nakba Narratives.** Esma Fatima Bilgin Tasdemir and Şaziye Betül Özateş.
 - **The Nakba Lexicon: Building a Comprehensive Dataset from Palestinian Literature.** Izza AbuHajja, Salim Al Mandhari, Mo El-Haj, Jonas Sibony and Paul Rayson.
 - **Cognitive Geographies of Catastrophe Narratives: Georeferenced Interview Transcriptions as Language Resource for Models of Forced Displacement.** Annie K. Lamar, Rick Castle, Carissa Chappell, Emmanouela Schoinoplokaki, Allene M. Seet, Amit Shilo and Chloe Nahas.
- 15:00 - 16:00 **Session 5: Nakba Narratives**
Chair: Osama Hamed
- **Collective Memory and Narrative Cohesion: A Computational Study of Palestinian Refugee Oral Histories in Lebanon.** Ghadir A. Awad, Tamara N. Rayan, Lavinia Dunagan and David Gamba.
 - **A cultural shift in Western perceptions of Palestine.** Terry Regier and Muhammad Ali Khalidi
 - **Detecting Inconsistencies in Narrative Elements of Cross Lingual Nakba Texts.** Nada Hamarsheh, Zahia Elabour, Aya Murra and Adnan Yahya
- 16:00 - 17:00 **Keynote: The Words Laundrette: Unmasking Bias and Propaganda in the Discourses on the Ongoing Nakba**

By Ilan Pappé

17:00 - 17:15

Closing